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EXAMINER KLEBE, GERALD B				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,617

Applicant(s)

CANTU, RICHARD A.

Examiner

Gerald B. Klebe

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-11,13,15-28,30 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 8,12,14 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

G B Klebe
27 Aug 2005

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/23/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification Objections

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 3, line 20: the brief description for Figure 9 should be as a --side view-- rather than as a “perspective” view.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims Objections

2. Claims 8, 15, 17, 22, and 30 are objected-to because of the following informalities:

a) In claims 8 and 22 the use of the word “screwed” is awkward; it is suggested that the word --threaded-- be used instead;

b) In claims 15 and 30 the use of the phrase “ the ground” as a claim limitation is inappropriate since the earth may not be claimed; it is suggested that the phrase --the supporting surface of the dolly-- be substituted therefor.

c) Claim 17 ends, inappropriately, with a semicolon; all claims should end with a period.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 8, 10-12, 16, 25-27 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 8 in lines 3-4 recites the limitation “the threaded mounting holes”; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 and claim 25 each in line 3 recites the limitation “the lower support”; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in each of these claims.

Claim 12 and claim 27 each in line 2 recites the limitation “a second platform” where no “first platform” has been previously recited in the claim; and further recites in line 3, “the platform”. It is not clear from the recitation of either of these claims to which of two platforms of the dolly the recitation “the platform” in line 3 is referring.

Claim 16 and claim 31 each in line 4 recites the limitation “the one wheel”; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in each of these claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan (US 5823549).

Morgan discloses a dolly (Fig 1, item 10) comprising:

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(re: claim 1) a platform (combination of items 12 and 14) having a generally planar upper surface;

a plurality of wheel assemblies (18) attached to a lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and wheel (refer col 5, lines 12-15);

a hole (Fig 8, taken as the upper hole 20) formed in the upper surface;

a mounting bar (72) extending across the hole; and ,

a plurality of recesses (24) formed in the upper surface; and

(re: claim 2) at least one hand-hold hole (Fig 8, taken as the lower hole 20 and refer col 5, lines 22-24) formed through the platform; and

(re: claim 4) wherein the platform includes a plurality of side surfaces (as shown, not separately numbered); and

(re: claim 7) a plurality of threaded lower surface holes formed in the lower surface, wherein the wheel assemblies are attached to the lower surface via the threaded lower surface holes (refer Fig 7, taken as the holes accommodating the bolts 54).

7. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chapman (US 5312121).

Chapman discloses a dolly (Fig 1, item 10) comprising:

(re: claim 1) a platform (combination of 23 and 25) having a generally planar upper surface;

a plurality of wheel assemblies (not separately numbered, but clearly shown) attached to a lower surface of the platform (via the legs 16), wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and wheel;

a hole (14; refer col 1, lines 45-48) formed in the upper surface;

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a mounting bar (20; refer col 1, lines 57-60) extending across the hole; and ,

a plurality of recesses (not separately numbered; taken as the recesses in 23 and 25 that accommodate the bolt heads of the bolts shown attaching the cross bar to each of 23 and 25 as shown in Fig 1) formed in the upper surface; and

(re: claim 3) a plurality of threaded mounting holes (taken as the not separately numbered bolts that are shown attaching the king pins 18 to the platform upper surface as shown in Fig 1) formed in the upper surface;

(re: claim 4) wherein the platform includes a plurality of side surfaces (not separately numbered, but clearly understood from the figures); and

(re: claim 9) a push handle assembly (not separately numbered but clearly shown in Fig 1) attached to the platform (via the intervening structures as shown in Fig 1) and including a frame (taken as the vertical standard portion including the escutcheon connector at the vehicle) removably attached to the platform; and a handle member (taken as the horizontal handlebar) attached to the frame; wherein a position of the dolly is controllable by pushing on the handle member (refer col 2, lines 18-21); and

(re: claim 13) wherein the push handle assembly further includes a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to and supporting the frame (by virtue of the push handle assembly being attached to the platform it is also attached to and supported by the plurality of wheel assemblies that are attached to and supporting the platform).

8. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either of Walker (US 2707351) or Herrmann (US 6209891).

a. Walker discloses a dolly comprising:

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a platform having a generally planar upper surface (Fig 2, item 5), a lower surface (not separately numbered; refer Fig 4) and a plurality of side surfaces (6; the other side surfaces being unnumbered), wherein the upper and the lower surfaces are octagonal in shape (refer Fig 4); and

a plurality of wheel assemblies (15-18) attached to the lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and a wheel (refer col 2, lines 12-14).

b. Herrmann discloses a dolly (Fig 1, item 10) comprising:

a platform having a generally planar upper surface (22), a lower surface (not separately numbered; taken as the bottom surface of the dolly as seen in Fig 3) and a plurality of side surfaces (16), wherein the upper and the lower surfaces are octagonal in shape (refer Figs 2, 3); and

a plurality of wheel assemblies (Fig 4, items 14) attached to the lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint (58) and a wheel (54) (refer col 4, lines 24-27).

9. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by either of Morrow (US 6695326) or Bergeron (US 6698771).

a. Morrow discloses a dolly comprising:

a platform (Fig 1, item 12) having a generally planar upper surface (14), a lower surface (16) and a plurality of side surfaces (not separately numbered), wherein the upper and the lower surfaces are octagonal in shape (refer Fig 3); and

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a plurality of wheel assemblies (18) attached to the lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and a wheel (item 20; refer col 3, lines 31-34).

b. Bergeron discloses a dolly (Fig 1, item 10) comprising:

a platform (Fig 1, item 11) having a generally planar upper surface (12), a lower surface (taken as the underside surface of 12) and a plurality of side surfaces (13), wherein the upper and the lower surfaces are octagonal in shape (refer Fig 2); and

a plurality of wheel assemblies (refer Fig 3: the combination of 14, 16, 17 and 18) attached to the lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and a wheel (refer col 2, line 63 to col 3, line 3).

10. Claims 24, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bergeron (US 6698771).

As discussed above, Bergeron discloses all of the features of the dolly of claim 17 from which claim 24 depends.

Regarding the features of claim 24, Bergeron further discloses:

a push handle assembly (Fig 4; taken as the combination of 28 (the push handle), 32 (the frame of the push handle assembly), and 26 (holds the handle (28) secure when the handle is not being used) attached to the platform (11; by its attachment to 19 which is attached to 11), the handle assembly including a frame (taken as 32) removably attached to the platform (refer to col 3, lines 29-31; where it is stated that 32 is conventionally attached, this is understood as including the feature of being conventionally removable) and a handle member (28) attached to

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the frame (32), wherein a position of the dolly is controllable by pushing on the handle member (refer col 3, lines 60-63).

Regarding the features of claim 27, Bergeron further discloses:

wherein the push handle assembly (as discussed above, taken as the combination of the elements 28, 32, and 26) further includes a second platform (taken as 19) attached to the frame 32), wherein the second platform is disposed adjacent to and flush with the [first] platform (11).

Regarding the features of claim 28, Bergeron further discloses:

wherein the push handle assembly further includes a plurality of wheel assemblies (18) attached to and supporting the frame (by virtue of the connection of the push handle assembly being attached to the platform it is also attached to and supported by the plurality of wheel assemblies that are attached to and supporting the platform).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan (US RE37,350) in view of Bonner (US 6886703).

Relative to the limitations of claim 1:

a. Stephan discloses a dolly (Fig 1, item 1) comprising:

a platform having a generally planar upper surface (Fig 1, taken as the flat surface of the upper edge of item 2);

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a plurality of wheel assemblies (9) attached to a lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and wheel (refer col 3, lines 53-54);

a hole (as shown in the figure the surface of the upper edge of item 2 opens to hold a bucket) formed in the upper surface;

a mounting bar (either of items 17 or 18) extending across the hole.

b. Stephan lacks explicit disclosure of a plurality of recesses formed in the upper surface.

c. However, Bonner teaches a dolly having a platform similar to Stephan but wherein the upper surface has a plurality of recesses formed in the upper surface.

d. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly of Stephan to have a plurality of recesses formed in the upper surface in accordance with the teachings of Bonner in order to be able to insert containers, such as buckets having diametrically opposed external cylindrical extrusions on their sides, which then are held secure at a height selected by the user as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 1-18.

Relative to the limitations of claim 4, Stephan further discloses a dolly wherein the platform includes a plurality of side surfaces (taken as the combination of the peripheral cylindrical surface of the dolly together with the side surfaces of the wheel supporting legs (9)); and, further

Relative to the limitations of claim 6, Stephan further discloses a dolly comprising a plurality of threaded side surface holes (best understood from Fig 2 as the hole, clearly threaded, required for the tightening means, items 10 used to secure a bucket mounted in the dolly from swinging about and sloshing the liquid during movement of the dolly from one location to another during use).

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13. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan (US 5823549) in view of Walker (US 2707351).

As discussed above, Morgan discloses all of the features of claim 4 from which claim 5 depends.

The side surfaces of Morgan are not octagonal in shape.

However, Walker teaches a dolly with planar platform in octagonal shape.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly platform shape of Morgan to be an octagonal shape in accordance with the teachings of Walker in order to have the dolly take up less space when being relocated from one place to another in confined spaces as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 1-3.

14. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman (US 5312121) in view of Malloy et al. (US 6101678).

As discussed above, Chapman discloses all of the features of claim 9 from which claim 10 depends.

Chapman's push handle is a single piece structure, lacking explicit disclosure wherein the upper and lower portions of the handle are attached via at least one lockable hinge.

However, Malloy et al. teaches an adjustable push handle (Fig 1, item 10) for a manually movable dolly where the upper and lower support members of the handle assembly are attached via a lockable hinge (13) where the handle grip extends from the upper support member of the handle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the handle member of Chapman to incorporate an articulating handle member extending from the upper support member wherein the upper support member is attached to the lower support member via a lockable hinge in accordance with the teachings of Malloy et al. in order to provide a more comfortable angle of grip for the user's hand when pushing the dolly as suggested by the reference at column 1, lines 9-12.

15. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman (US 5312121) in view of Malloy et al. (US 6101678) and further in view of Jepson (US 2962854).

As discussed above, the combination of Chapman and Malloy et al. discloses all of the features of claim 10 from which claim 11 depends.

The combination of Chapman and Malloy et al. as applied to claim 10 enables the upper support member of the handle to pivot about the lower support member of the handle via a lockable hinge but discloses the lower support member of the handle attached to the dolly platform with a fixed frame member, thus lacking explicit disclosure wherein the handle frame attaching the lower support member of the handle to the dolly platform includes a plate with a plurality of mounting holes wherein the lower support member of the handle can be attached to the plate via a selected one of the mounting holes.

However, Jepson teaches (Figs 5-7) an angle-adjustable push handle for a manually movable dolly wherein the frame of the handle assembly that attaches the lower support member of the handle to the platform includes a plate (38, 39) with a plurality of mounting holes (53) and the lower support member of the handle (48) is attached to the plate via a selected one of the

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mounting holes wherein the one selected mounting hole determines an angle at which the lower support member extends from the frame of the handle assembly (refer col 6, lines 25-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the handle assembly of the combination of Chapman and Malloy et al. in accordance with the further teachings of Jepson to substitute the handle frame in accordance with the teachings of Jepson in order to be able to selectively fix the height of the handle (by selectively fixing the angle of extension of the handle) as appropriate for the user's height for comfortably pushing the dolly from location to location.

16. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman (US 5312121) in view of Balolia (US 6371496).

As discussed above, Chapman discloses all of the features of claim 1 from which claim 15 depends.

Chapman lacks explicit disclosure of an outrigger assembly including a plate attachable to the platform and a threaded bolt extending through a threaded hole in the plate wherein the position of the dolly is fixable by rotating the bolt until it engages the supporting surface of the dolly.

However, Balolia teaches a dolly (20) having a platform (22) and an outrigger assembly (refer Fig 6-8, item 32) including a plate (122) attachable to the platform and a threaded bolt extending through a threaded hole in the plate wherein the dolly position is fixable by rotating the bolt until it engages the supporting surface of the dolly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly platform of Chapman by incorporating an

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outrigger assembly for fixing the dolly position in accordance with the teachings of Balolia in order to be able to have a position locking device on the dolly that does not bear directly on the wheel(s) and thus that does not cause excessive wheel wear or require tools to operate as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 18-20.

17. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman (US 5312121) in view of Coyne et al. (US 5136751).

As discussed above, Chapman discloses all of the features of claim 1 from which claim 16 depends.

Chapman lacks explicit disclosure regarding a fixed wheel assembly including a plate attachable to the platform and at least one wheel fixed to the plate for rotation only along one direction wherein the at least one wheel fixed to the plate and attached to the platform confine the plurality of wheel assemblies to roll along the one direction.

However, Coyne et al. teaches a fixed wheel for attachment to a dolly platform wherein the fixed wheel assembly includes a plate (refer Fig 8, item 15 and the related text of the reference) attachable to the platform and at least one wheel fixed to the plate for rotation only along one direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the disclosure of any of the dollies of Herrmann; Walker; Morrow; and Bergeron to incorporate a fixed wheel assembly which, being attached to the dolly platform confines the plurality of wheel assemblies of the dolly platform to roll only along one direction in accordance with the teachings of Coyne et al. in order to provide a wheel assembly that can be quickly and easily attached to a variety of locations on the dolly platform

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by its self-contained adhesive mounting legs as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 24-26.

18. Claims 17, 21 and 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Briggs (US 5004255) in view of Walker (US 2707351).

a. Briggs discloses a dolly comprising:

(re: claim 17) a platform having a generally planar upper surface, a lower surface and a plurality of side surfaces,

a plurality of wheel assemblies attached to the lower surface of the platform, wherein each of the wheel assemblies includes a swivel joint and a wheel; and

(re: claim 21) a threaded mounting hole formed in the upper surface; and,

(re: claim 22) a high hat camera mount that includes a support post threaded into the threaded mounting hole and a support plate attached to the support post.

b. Briggs discloses a dolly platform having upper and lower surfaces that are rectangular in shape rather than octagonal, and having only a single threaded mounting hole and single support post threaded therein rather than a plurality of threaded holes and a plurality of support posts threaded into each.

c. However, Walker teaches a dolly comprising a platform having a generally planar upper surface, a lower surface and a plurality of side surfaces and a plurality of swivel joint wheel assemblies attached to the lower surface of the platform, and wherein the platform planar upper surface is generally octagonal in shape.

d. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the platform upper surface shape of Briggs to be

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octagonal in accordance with the teachings of Walker in order to permit easier maneuvering of the dolly in tight and/or cluttered workspaces as suggested by the reference at column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 3.

Regarding the further limitations of claims 21 and 22 wherein the dolly has (re: claim 21) a plurality of threaded mounting holes and (re: claim 22) a concomitant plurality of support posts, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly of Briggs to include a plurality of threaded mounting holes in the upper surface and provide a concomitant plurality of support posts threaded thereinto since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Regarding claim 23, wherein the dolly further comprises a plurality of threaded holes formed in the side surfaces of the platform, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well-known in the analogous arts of dollies and carts to provide threaded holes on the sides of these vehicles for attachment of supports for items such as tools, supplies and containers therefor, and to provide these threaded holes in any number anticipated as being needed for the work tasks for which the dolly or cart will be used.

19. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrmann (US 6209891).

As discussed above, Herrmann discloses all of the features of claim 17 from which claim 18 depends.

Herrmann lacks explicit disclosure of the dolly further comprising a plurality of threaded lower surface holes each formed in the lower surface adjacent one of the octagonal corners

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wherein the wheel assemblies are attached to the lower surface via the threaded lower surface holes; instead, Herrmann uses nuts and bolts to attach the wheel assemblies at each of the octagonal corners of the dolly.

However, Herrmann further teaches that other arrangements are suitable for attaching the wheel assemblies (refer col 4, lines 45-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the disclosure of Herrmann by using threaded bolts engaging threaded holes in the lower surface of the dolly at each of the octagonal corners since the examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of the use of nuts and bolts and threaded bolts that engage threaded holes in the structure for securing various structures including castor wheel assemblies to vehicles and the selection of any of these known equivalents to secure the wheel assemblies to the underside of the dolly would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

20. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrmann (US 6209891) in view of Groening (US 5752543).

As discussed above, Herrmann discloses all of the features of claim 17 from which claim 19 depends.

Moreover, **Herrmann also discloses the further features of claim 19** wherein the dolly has a hole (18) and a plurality of recesses formed in its upper surface (identified as the recesses formed by the spanning web 22 and the integral raised portions 47; refer col 3, line 66 to col 4, line 6).

Herrmann lacks explicit disclosure of a mounting bar extending across the hole.

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However, Groening discloses a similar dolly that mounts bars that extend across the hole.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly of Herrmann to mount bars across the hole in accordance with the teachings of Groening in order to provide bracing that strengthens the dolly structure as suggested by the reference at column 3, lines 26-27.

21. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Herrmann (US 6209891) and Groening (US 5752543) and further in view of Pool et al. (US 6345828).

As discussed above, the combination of Herrmann and Groening discloses all of the features of claim 19 from which claim 20 depends.

The combination of Herrmann and Groening lacks explicit disclosure of at least one hand-hold hole formed through the platform.

However, Pool et al. discloses a dolly having hand-hold hole formed through the platform.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the dolly of the combination of Herrmann and Groening as applied above to claim 19 to include a hand-hold hole through the platform as taught by Pool et al. in order to enable the dolly to be easily carried in one hand as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 5-6.

22. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergeron (US 6698771) in view of Malloy et al. (US 6101678).

As discussed above, Bergeron discloses all of the features of claim 24 from which claim 25 depends.

Bergeron discloses a push handle of one single piece structure, lacking explicit disclosure wherein the upper and lower portions of the handle are attached via at least one lockable hinge.

However, Malloy et al. teaches an adjustable push handle (Fig 1, item 10) for a manually movable dolly where the upper and lower support members of the handle assembly are attached via a lockable hinge (13) wherein the handle grip extends from the upper support member of the handle.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the handle member of Bergeron to incorporate an articulating handle member extending from the upper support member wherein the upper support member is attached to the lower support member via a lockable hinge in accordance with the teachings of Malloy et al. in order to provide a more comfortable angle of grip for the user's hand when pushing the dolly as suggested by the reference at column 1, lines 9-12.

23. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergeron (US 6698771) in view of Malloy et al. (US 6101678) and further in view of Jepson (US 2962854).

As discussed above, the combination of Bergeron and Malloy et al. discloses all of the features of claim 25 from which claim 26 depends. The combination of Bergeron and Malloy et al. as applied to claim 25 enables the handle to pivot freely about the handle frame but lacks explicit disclosure wherein the handle frame includes a plate with a plurality of mounting holes wherein the lower support member of the handle can be attached to the plate via a selected one of the mounting holes.

However, Jepson teaches (Figs 5-7) an angle adjustable push handle for a manually movable dolly wherein the frame of the handle assembly that attaches the lower support member

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of the handle to the platform includes a plate (39) with a plurality of mounting holes (53) and the lower support member of the handle (48) is attached to the plate via a selected one of the mounting holes wherein the one selected mounting hole determines an angle at which the lower support member extends from the frame of the handle assembly (refer col 6, lines 25-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the handle assembly of the combination of Bergeron and Malloy et al. in accordance with the further teachings of Jepson to substitute the handle frame in accordance with the teachings of Jepson in order to be able to selectively fix the height of the handle (by selectively fixing the angle of extension of the handle) as appropriate for the user's height for comfortably pushing the dolly from location to location.

24. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Herrmann (US 6209891), Walker (US 2707351), Morrow (US 6695326) or Bergeron (US 6698771) in view of Balolia (US 6371496).

As discussed above, each of Herrmann(-891), Walker (-351), Morrow (-326) and Bergeron (-771) disclose all of the features of claim 17 from which claim 30 depends.

Each of these references is silent regarding an outrigger assembly including a plate attachable to the respective dolly platform and having a threaded bolt extending through the threaded hole in the plate wherein the dolly is fixable in position by rotating the bolt until it engages the supporting surface of the dolly.

However, Balolia teaches a dolly (20) having a platform (22) and an outrigger assembly (Figs 6-8, item 32) including a plate (122) attachable to the platform and a threaded bolt

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extending through a threaded hole in the plate wherein the dolly position is fixable by rotating the bolt until it engages the supporting surface of the dolly.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the dolly platform of any one of the dollies disclosed by Herrmann; Walker; Morrow; and Bergeron by incorporating an outrigger assembly for fixing the dolly position in accordance with the teachings of Balolia in order to be able to have a position locking device on the dolly that does not bear directly on the wheel(s) and thus that does not cause excessive wheel wear or require tools to operate as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 18-20.

25. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Herrmann (US 6209891), Walker (US 2707351), Morrow (US 6695326) or Bergeron (US 6698771) in view of Coyne et al. (US 5136751).

As discussed above, each of Herrmann(-891), Walker (-351), Morrow (-326) and Bergeron (-771) disclose all of the features of claim 17 from which claim 31 depends.

Each of these references is silent regarding a fixed wheel assembly that includes a plate attachable to the platform and at least one wheel fixed to the plate for rotation only along one direction wherein that wheel, being affixed to the platform, confines the plurality of wheel assemblies to roll only along one direction.

However, Coyne et al. teaches a fixed wheel for attachment to a dolly platform wherein the fixed wheel assembly includes a plate (refer Fig 8, item 15, and refer to the related text of the reference) attachable to the platform and at least one wheel fixed to the plate for rotation only along one direction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have modified the disclosure of any of the dollies disclosed by Herrmann; Walker; Morrow; and Bergeron to incorporate a fixed wheel assembly which, being attached to the dolly platform confines the plurality of wheel assemblies of the dolly platform to roll only along one direction in accordance with the teachings of Coyne et al. in order to provide a wheel assembly that can be quickly and easily attached to a variety of locations on the dolly platform by its self-contained adhesive mounting legs as suggested by the reference at column 2, lines 24-26.

Allowable Subject Matter

26. Claims 14 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art made of Record

27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The prior art of Eaddy; of Mitchell et al.; of Hewitt; of Farmer; of Powers; of Mount; and of Moehler each show features in common with some of the other structures of the inventive concept disclosed in the instant application.


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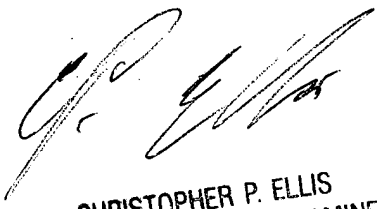
Conclusion

28. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communication(s) from the examiner should be directed to Gerald B. Klebe at 571-272-6695; Mon.-Fri., 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET, or to Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher P. Ellis, Art Unit 3618, at 571-272-6914.

Official correspondence should be sent to the following TC 3600 Official number as follows: 571-273-8300.

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gbklebe / Art Unit 3618 / 27 August 2005


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